



SEAHA Trail Ride Rules & Trail Etiquette

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We all know that “etiquette” is courtesy, politeness, safety, responsibility, caring, and respect to others. This guideline will help you to maintain these objectives while on the trail, and in and around camp. We have etiquette in our daily lives, and there is no reason to abandon that etiquette when you ride. Especially when there is a group of horses or you encounter another rider on the trail. Basically, etiquette is meant to help you from being rude to others.

Anyone who has ridden for more than one day knows that horses don’t always do what they are expected or asked to do. When this occurs, it can panic a new rider. Following safety rules, exercising courtesy and patience can make all of the difference.

Although you may dislike rules and do not wish to follow them, they are in place to protect the wellbeing and safety of the group. It is your responsibility to ensure your own safety. This includes knowing the limits of your own abilities and the fitness of your horse. Such as, if your horse is not used to going for ten hours straight, then don’t push him to do that. When trail riding, each rider shares in the responsibility for the safety of every other rider in the group. Safety lies in knowing HOW your horse will react and WHAT it takes to remain in control of the situation. By following the list of rules below we will be doing everything possible to keep everyone safe on the trail.

1. The Trail Boss has the ultimate authority on any SEAHA, ride. This is for the safety of all riders.
2. Stay behind the Trail Boss and in front of the Drag Rider. Any rider leaving the group will no longer be considered part of the trail ride. In the event a rider must leave the group the Trail Boss will assign another rider to escort that rider, unless the rider is very familiar with the trail.
3. Saddles are required on trail rides; no bareback pads or bareback riders are permitted.
4. The gait for all trail rides will be the walk unless otherwise indicated, and may change at the discretion of the Trail Boss.
5. No alcoholic beverages allowed on the trail.
6. No dogs permitted on the trail. Dogs in camp must be on a leash or kept tied.
7. No loose horses are allowed on the trail or in camp.
8. No double riding.
9. Ponying a second horse is not allowed.
10. Do not chase livestock or wildlife found on the trail.
11. Control your horse. Unruly horses may affect the behavior of other horses and riders, especially if they do not have much experience.
12. Appropriate personal headgear is recommended.
13. If a rider falls off their horse or dismounts, please stop until the rider has remounted.
14. If a horse becomes “SPOOKED” or unruly, please stop and wait until the horse is back under control.

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15. If you have to stop, for a tack adjustment, broken equipment, or any reason, please inform other riders, so the message can get to the Trail Boss and Drag to stop the entire group. Again, horses are herd animals and they do not like to be left behind from the group. Most of us do not like to chase our horses down on foot.
16. A parent or guardian must accompany riders under 18 years old at all times.
17. Stallions are permitted on trail rides, unless otherwise indicated, as long as the rider is able to control the horse. Please put a yellow ribbon in the tail of a stallion, and inform the Trail Boss that you will be riding a stallion
18. Place a red ribbon in your horse's tail if he kicks, is likely to kick, or doesn't like having other horses close to his tail. Do not let your horse crowd the horse in front of you. Keep at least one horse length between you and the horse in front of you. This will prevent your horse from stepping on the shoes of the horse in front of you. Crowding may cause another horse to become unruly or kick. Watch for those red ribbons!
19. Place a green ribbon in your horse's tail if he doesn't have much trail experience. Place a green ribbon on you, if you do not have much riding experience. Please ride in the middle of the group. This will help comfort and relax your horse.
20. Please do not allow your horse to run up or down hills, run pass other riders, or leave the trail. Horses are herd animals, and their instinct is for them to stay together in a group. If you wander from the trail, this will cause other horses to want to follow you and not necessarily the Trail Boss. Also, if you allow your horse to run away from or past another horse, this may cause the other horse to bolt because they think there is either a danger from behind them or that they will be left behind if they do not run with your horse. Staying on the trail also demonstrates respect for the landowner or land manager by not creating a new or "braided" trail.
21. If you choose to pass another rider, alert the other rider that you will be passing, pass slower traffic on the left, yield to oncoming traffic, and always look ahead.
22. Obey rules posted at trailheads.
23. Please do not litter. "Pack it in, Pack it out". Please pick up any litter you may find on the trail.
24. If you make a fire, please make sure it is out, and erase all visible signs of your fire. That means to scatter the COLD ashes and to break down the fire ring. Please scatter any remaining unburned wood.
25. Watch out for trail dangers such as low hanging branches, wire or holes in the ground. Warn riders behind you that they are approaching a hazardous situation.
26. All trail ride participants must be SEAHA members. A "Day Membership" can be purchased for \$1.00 the day of the ride. As always, guests may participate in 3 SEAHA trail rides, after which time they must become members of the club before participating in any other club rides. All attendees must sign a waiver for each event they participate in.